April 2006

Volume XXXVI, No. 3

FREE

Potrero Hill Parks Receive a "B" Grade in Recent Survey

By Cristi Hegranes Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

When the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) tallied the grades for its first-ever report card on the state of the City's playgrounds, it wasn't all good news for Potrero Hill.

NPC recently recruited more than 100 volunteers to conduct the first annual "Love Your Playground" survey. Volunteers were asked to comb their local playgrounds to uncover unnoticed or unremediated maintenance issues. The program yielded the City's first playground report card, which was presented to Mayor Gavin Newsom in mid-March.

Overall, District 10 received a score of 76 percent; a "B" by NPC's standards. The popular Jackson Playground received an "A," and McKinley Square received a strong "B." But the Potrero Hill Playground and Recreation Center was one of only 11 of San Francisco's playgrounds to get an "E."

Kerri Kinsela, a Potrero Hill resident, surveyed the Potrero Hill Playground. "It was terrible," she says. Kinsela reported play structures with missing bolts, protruding metal and most disturbingly, a sand box that was filled with dog feces and urine.

Kinsela, who has two children ages two and four, says she doesn't know anyone who lets their kids play there. "No one goes there as a destination," she says.

Like many Potrero Hills parents, Kinsela takes her children to McKinley Square playground. According to ParkScan, the online citizen's maintenance reporting program maintained by NPC, McKinley Square has a drainage and associated mosquito problem, which may have led to its less-than-perfect score.

Jackson Playground had the Hill's strongest showing. Jackson hosts the Tiny Tots Kids Gym program year-round and offers Arts and Crafts on Tuesday afternoons. According to Jeff Condit, the Neighborhood Parks Council's Playground and Capital Projects Coordinator, playgrounds that host programs tend to be in the best shape all across the City.

While more than half of San Francisco's playgrounds scored "A's" or "B's," 45 percent received a "C," "D" or "F."

Three Decades of Free Health Care for the Needy at the Potrero Hill Health Center

By Clifford Agocs Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

Thirty years of sunlight has faded the wooden façade behind the brassy letters that read "Caleb G. Clark Memorial Health Center." Poised on top of Potrero Hill overlooking San Francisco General Hospital, a lot has changed for the Center, including its name which honored deceased social worker Clark. Now called the "Potrero Hill Health Center," it's become the clinic of last resort for some of San Francisco's neediest.

The Health Center offers what Michael Drennan calls "lean and mean" medical services. For the last 22 years Drennan has been the medical director of the family clinic, which provides neonatal care, dental services, urgent care, substance abuse counseling, access to psychiatrists, hospital referrals and nearly everything in between.

"Rather than spending all of our money pulling people out of the river, we're trying to spend it upstream to prevent them from falling in," says Drennan, who also serves as the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Director of Community-Oriented Primary Care.

Over the last five years the Health Center's two million dollar budget has been steadily shrinking. But that may finally be changing. "For the first time in a long time a mayor is talking about pumping money into the system," Drennan says, referring to Mayor Gavin Newsom's recent proposal to invest \$51.6 million to make health care available to all San Franciscans. There are upwards of 100,000 uninsured residents who are in need of primary care. Currently, the Department of Public Health has a total budget of \$45 million dollars.

More than half of the 11,000 patients who visit the Health Center are uninsured. These individuals pay anything from nothing to \$45 a month for Center services. On average the Center recovers just two cents for every dollar of medical care provided to their patients. The other 98 cents is paid by the city. Still, the Health Center plays a critical role in keeping overall medical costs down — without its intervention, uninsured patients would more likely end-up in even more costly emergency rooms.

Seventy percent of the Health Center's patients are African-Americans or Latinos between the ages of 18 and 65. The Center's focus has shifted away from families, who have steadily moved out of San Francisco due to increased cost of living, and toward homeless individuals with one or more major non-medical issues that confound their health care problems. "Fifty to 75 percent of our patients are strung out on alcohol, street or prescription drugs," says Drennan, who talks about expanding the definition of primary care to address these problems. Over his two decades he's overseen the Center's expansion into providing anything that falls

under the rubric of Community Behavioral Health Services, including nutritional counseling to manage diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure, substance abuse intervention and homelessness prevention.

"There's an effort to integrate mental health and substance abuse care into our services but there are privacy issues, and right now counselors are working out of medical exam space," Drennan explains. That means that doctors are forced to spend less time with patients, and counselors are working with them as time and space affords. "We're bursting at the seams," says Drennan, who's talking with the Department of Public Works about a construction project that would add three new exam rooms and more counseling space.

The Potrero Hill Health Center is one of 14 public health clinics in the City that provide care for roughly 200,000 visits a year. Some of these patients qualify for larger publicly-funded programs, like Medi-Cal or Medicare, but require the assistance of a social worker to navigate the system and deal with other life challenges, such as transportation and housing.

This is the population that Newsom is talking about serving when he refers to "all" San Franciscans' right to quality primary care. Determining who and how many they are, and finding the best ways to use city money to manage their care is the charge of the Universal Healthcare

Counsel, a group of 41 doctors, medical directors, and health and city officials that was formed earlier this year. The Counsel is about a third of the way through its 100 day charter to draft a health care coverage plan and corresponding budget. At the top of their list is reliance on existing clinics to work with the communities they serve to meet their unique needs.

"If you get a million dollars you don't just buy a million dollars worth of doctors," Drennan explains. "A lot of care is delivered by nurses and social workers." For example, expanding into more hours of the week "really depends on the nursing staff," according to Dr. Sushma Magnuson, who oversees the Center's treatment program and, after 13 years, is the newest permanent doctor at the clinic. "If I spend extra time with a patient and miss my lunch or I'm here until seven that's my choice." But being open depends on the availability of nursing staff, which requires more money.

"Our reason for being is the belief that everyone has the right to care, regardless of financial ability because we all need good health to compete equally in the world," explains Dennan. "The idea of funding primary care is to prevent suffering and early death and to lower costs."

One barrier to adequate care is wait times. According to Drennan, there's a

(Continues on page 16)



offers a unique perspective from 53 years of history on Potrero Hill.
See page 19 for complete story.

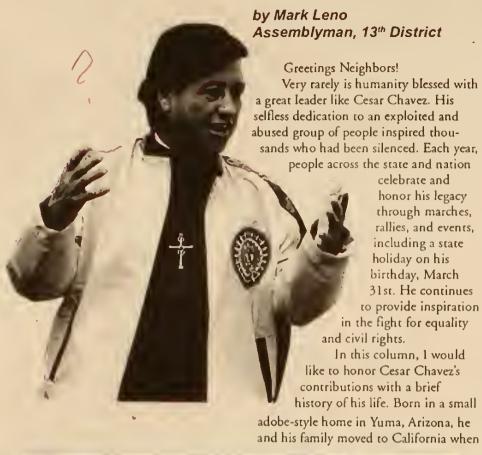
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From Sacramento and Your Neighborhood





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he was a teenager. Living in a barrio of San Jose known commonly as "Sal Si Puedes," which translates to "Get Out If You Can," his family worked in the fields to earn a living. Out of sheer need, Chavez halted his formal education after the 8th grade in order to provide for his

In early adulthood, Chavez served in the Navy, married Helen Fabela and begai a family. While working in the fields, he came to the attention of those involved with the Community Service Organization (CSO), which helped organize underserved workers into labor unions. CSO created a new movement for Mexican-American rights and ushered in a new era of Latino activism. Chavez began working for CSO by registering Mexican-Americans to vote.

After a decade with the CSO, where he eventually became its national director, Chavez created his own organization, the National Farm Workers Association. Later joining with Filipino American members of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, and Dolores Huerta, the group came to be known as the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO (UFW). This group was dedicated to fighting for economic justice for farm workers and became one of the most influential Latino organizations in the United States.



Assemblyman Mark Leno After witnessing years of abuse and maltreatment of his fellow farm workers in the grape fields in California, Chavez led the UFW and the nation through a boycott of all California table grapes, starting in 1967. The boycott, known as "La Causa," or "The Cause," eventually paved the way for California state laws that guaranteed bargaining and organizing rights for workers. It also led to the signing of the landmark Agricultural Labor Relations

Chavez continued fighting for equality and fairness throughout the rest of his life. He sacrificed enormously for the cause, often fasting for days to bring attention to the hardships farm workers endured. His final fast in 1988, which lasted 36 days, called attention to how pesticides in the grape fields were harming grape workers and their families. When Chavez passed away in 1993, many close to him attributed his death in part to the fact that he never fully recovered from that fast.

In 2000, California established the state holiday in honor of Cesar Chavez with the idea of it being a 'day on' rather than a 'day off,' to promote his tireless advocacy for civil rights. "If you want to remember me, organize!" was his response when asked how he would want to be remembered.

That is why I urge you to honor Cesar Chavez, not only by participating in the many rallies and marches scheduled around his birthday, but by considering

> "Let us remember those who died for justice for they have given us life."



devoting some of your volunteer time to the Cesar Chavez Foundation. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please call (818) 265-0300, or visit http:// www.chavezfoundation.org.

Today, the UFW is one of the most important and influential unions in the country. I was proud that they stood strongly in support of our marriage equality bill last year. Chavez's legacy of justice and equal rights for all people inspires us to keep the movement alive. His rallying cry "Si Se Puede!" which translates roughly to "It Can Be Done!" reminds us that our struggle for respect and dignity for everyone continues.

Cesar Chavez wrote, "Let us remember those who died for justice for they have given us life. Help us to love even those who hate us so that we can change the world." Si Se Puede!

To contact Assemblyman Mark Leno's San Francisco District Office call (415) 557-3013 or e-mail him directly at Assemblymember. Leno@asm.ca.gov.



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100th Anniversary of 1906

Earthquake Preparation... Very Important

By Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi -

On April 18, 1906, our great city of San Francisco was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that was felt throughout the western United States. The earthquake and the subsequent fires left our bustling city, known then as "the Paris of the West," in ruins within minutes. Yet 100 years later, we are blessed to live, once again, in a vibrant and

thriving city.

The 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake is a chance to reflect not only on the San Francisco that tose from the flames, but also on lessons learned about emergency pteparedness. As recently as 1989 our city was rocked to its cote by the Loma Prieta earthquake, where I learned firsthand what a crucial tole FEMA can play in emergency response as we worked to obtain assistance and funding for rebuilding and seismic retrofitting. While our recent memories of tragedies like Hurricane Katrina remind us of the terrible damage that can be caused by a natural disaster, we also temember the great lengths that neighbors will go to help others in need. Lotta's Fountain, which still stands in downtown San Francisco, is a symbol of the community's response to the needs of survivors of the 1906 quake.

Yet the kindness of others alone is not enough to protect our citizens in a time of crisis. Cities such as San Francisco that are at a tisk for a major natural or man-made disaster must be sure that our governmental agencies and community organizations have a concrete plan of action should a disaster occut. Nothing less than the lives of our city's residents are at stake.

As we witnessed from the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and the failed federal response in handling the disaster afterwards, all levels of government must all be ready to tespond at a moment's notice.

Nationally, Democtats have a comprehensive plan to protect our nation - beginning with implementing all of the bipartisan,

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Democrats have proposed legislation that would require 100 percent of the containers headed for out shores to be screened at their port of origin. Curtently, only 6 percent of containers atriving in the U.S. are screened. Additionally, Democrats continue to call fot an independent Katrina Commission so that we have the answers we need to ensure our nation is bettet prepared for any future disasters.

Finally, Democrats have repeatedly proposed to increase funding for port secutity and restore Republican cuts to fitst respondet initiatives. My support for our nation's firelighters, policemen and other emergency response workers is unwavering. All of us owe a debt of gratifude to these brave men and women who tisk their own safety each day to protect our communities. It is critical that these men and women on the ftontlines have the equipment and training they need to protect our neighborhoods.

I'm proud to join the City of San Francisco, 72houts.otg. the San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team, San Francisco's Firefighters, Police and many other agencies in supporting San Francisco's citywide emetgency plan.

On 100th Anniversary of 1906 Earthquake, we must tecommit to emergency preparedness for the protection of our communities locally and nationwide. We also remember that with tragedy comes human sitength and tesilience. The lessons of San Francisco's revival provide hope that New Orleans will rise again.

Contact Nancy Pelosi's S.F. District Office at 415-556-4865 or email her directly at sf.nancy@mail.house gov

WHEELS

independent 9/11 Commission's recommendations to protect out ports and airports, secure our borders, and provide real time communications for our first responders. Unfortunately, Republicans have failed to implement these straightforward yet crucial recommendations.



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GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each evennumbered-month at 7 p.m., at 950 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: Tuesday April 11.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th Streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz. Next meeting: April 11.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: April 7 and May 5.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Pottero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit www.potreroboosters.org or call Ptesident Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at president@potreroboosters.org. Next two meetings: April 25 and May 30.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, ot ornamental gardening apptopriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: April 30.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oukdale at Phelps. Refreshments

SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street, Rooms 2001-2003. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info. Next two meetings: April 12 and May 10.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: May 16. Volunteer for the Park work days continue *every* month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: April 15 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0293. Call 810-4900 for more information.



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OIL CHANGE



See harpist Destiny Muhammad at the library, April 11, 2006, at 7 p.m.

PLEASE COME!

The 51* Annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition opens on Saturday, April 1 at the Potrero Branch Library, continues through Saturday, April 29, and can be viewed anytime during the library's open hours. As in past years, this non-juried exhibition is organized by our neighborhood planning committee and features work done by artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill. The Library's first art show opened in 1955, due primarily to the efforts of the late Charles Griffin Farr.

To launch this year's exhibition, there will be an opening reception at the library, funded by generous donations from Potrero Hill merchants, organizations, individuals, and the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Come and join us at the opening reception on Saturday, April 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. for a celebrative evening, highlighting the work of local artists. Also featured will be live entertainment by the Apollo Jazz Group.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of one or two volunteers to help us transport on a regular basis donated materials to the Friends of the Library's Book Bay location at Fort Mason. If you are interested in helping us in this way or if you have questions, please call me at 415-355-2855.

APRIL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Come and join us when we welcome the Harpist from the Hood, featuring renowned Bay Area harpist Destiny Muhammad on Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. For children of all ages. This program is funded by the Friends of the Library.

Here's the lineup for our regular weekly and monthly programs:

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

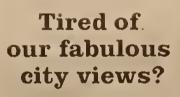
Afternoon films on Thursday, April 13 at 2:30 p.m.: "Nate the Great Goes Undercover," "Practical Princess" and "People Soup." For ages 5 and older.

Evening storytime on Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 through 7.

Evening films on Tuesday, April 18 a 7 p.m.: "Chrysanthemum," "Tangram" and "Strega Nona." For ages 3 and older.

NOTE: for programs listed above, the programming room is not accessible by elevator. Also, please contact library staff in advance for group reservations.

Jensa Woo Potrero Branch Library Manager



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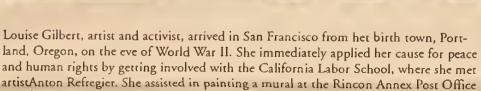


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Gilbett was a founding member of the Graphic Arts Workshop, a group of printmakers, who shared the collective spitit of the Labor School. The school exists to this date.

Up to the last days of her life, Louise Gilbett was always full of projects: Silkscreen, woodblock, drawing, and computer drawings. She was generous with her artwork and modest income in het support for worthy causes. She had the love of life, dignity, and a great sense of humor.

A special show in memory of Louise Gilbert starts April 29, through May 27 at the Graphic Arts Workshop, 2565 3rd Street, #305, in San Francisco.



Mea Culpa!

Oops! We forgot to credit M. Joseph Schaller for the fabulous Potrero Garden Club photo in last month's issue. Out apologies.

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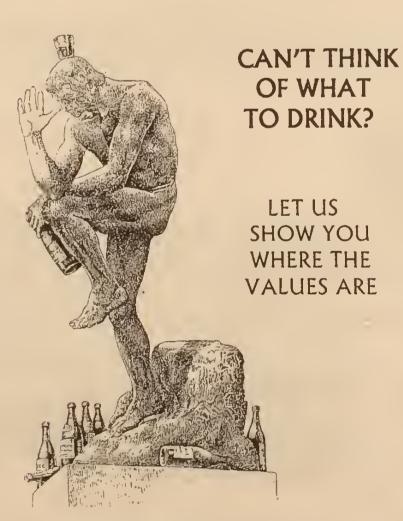
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Temporary camps dotted the Hill after the 1906 earthquake. Note the recently torn-down tower on the upper right side of the photo. Courtesy of California Historical Society Library.

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The Blue Greenway:

A 13-Mile Greenway Network Along San Francisco's Southeast Waterfront

Our southeast waterfront is a precious city asset that has long been neglected. This corridor is currently undergoing a tremendous transformation: Mission Bay, the 3rd Street Light Rail, the Hunters Point Shipyard are synonymous with the dramatic changes. Often contentious for a myriad of reasons, these projects are going forward nonetheless. We have a window of opportunity to influence this development and ensure that a unified green infrastructure prevails as a central theme. This is a chance to move forward on a grand vision for our waterfront; a vision that ensures transit and open space are driving development, not development driving transit and open space which are often relegated as an afterthought.

The Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) has been leading a coalition to advocate for the Blue Greenway, a 13-mile greenway trail along our southeast Bay edge that will complete San Francisco1s southern portion of the Bay Trail and Bay Water Trail. The impact of this trail could be far more than a wonderful path for walking, biking, and kayaking, connecting green spaces with each other, San Francisco communities, and the Bay; it could become the spine that runs through potential San Francisco 3green neighborhoods,2 attracting developers that see the importance of public open space and bike infrastructure for their projects and increasing economic vitality.

Realizing the Vision

This vision became a step closer to reality on November 2, 2005, when Mayor Gavin Newsom convened the first meeting of the Blue Greenway Task Force. The Task Force consists of city and state agencies, elected officials, neighborhood associations, non-profit and advocacy organizations (including the Bicycle Coalition), business professionals and con-

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cerned residents. They are charged with creating both short- and long-term visions and an implementation plan for the Blue Greenway. The short-term objective is to identify and ideally complete a portion of the Bay Trail within a year, with a goal of being the first county in the Bay Area to complete its Bay Trail alignment. The long-term objective is to create an action plan and funding strategy for a³green infrastructure² encompassing the full trail along the southern waterfront over the next five to-10 years.

The Bay Trail

State senate legislation, SB 100, gave birth to the Bay Trail in 1987. The legislation mandates a continuous 400-mile recreation and transportation network encircling San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with bicycle and pedestrian paths. This ³ring around the Bay² will connect the shoreline of all nine Bay Area counties, link 47 cities, and cross the major toll bridges in the region. This trail network was recently enhanced with the passage of AB1296, the San Francisco Bay Water Trail creating a trail for human-powered boats alongside its land-based counterpart.

There is no central coordinating state agency tasked with the construction of the Bay Trail. Implementation is left to local municipalities and counties, with the Association of Bay Area Governments ensuring consistency with approved guidelines and providing construction and planning grants. To date, approximately 240 miles







of the alignment have been completed. The southern waterfront of San Francisco is a significant gap and major challenge for the Bay Trail network.

The Blue Greenway

In May, 2003, NPC and SPUR hosted a daylong conference to address open space issues along the waterfront. The existing conditions included dilapidated parks stemming from a lack of community stewardship, as well as park equity issues leading to health problems due to poor access to recreational opportunities. The general consensus of the day was that the Bay Trail was crucial to connect existing parks to each other and the surrounding communities and could provide the necessary spark to encourage the creation of additional park spaces, possibly a grand park for the east to rival Golden Gate Park on the western side of the City.

NPC pursued this vision and formed a Steering Committee to guide the effort. The Blue Greenway was adopted as a name for this portion of the Bay Trail in order to express the important connection between land and water. A public outreach and education campaign began, consisting of community events, conferences featuring successful models from around the world, waterfront tours, and an intense lobbying effort aimed at city agencies and elected officials. The Blue Greenway Trail will be a unifying initiative implementing the Bay Trail, the Bay Water Trail, green infrastructure, public art and interpretive elements along the southern waterfront. Excellence from our waterfront is our expectation.

Short-Term Implementation Plan

NPC solicited the assistance of Mayor to get the trail included in our civic agenda. In turn, Mayor Newsom has assigned Marshall Foster, Director of the Mayor1s Office of City Greening, to facilitate the Blue Greenway Task Force. The first goal is to create a short-term implementation plan for the Blue Greenway, at a minimum to complete the bicycle lanes along the Bay Trail alignment, from SBC Stadium to the entrance of the Hunters Point Shipyard and continuing on to the southern border. The important work of the Bicycle Coalition to complete bike lanes down Illinois Street, will be an ideal starting point.

The Task Force will be promoting a temporary easement around the development in the Hunters Point Shipyard.

This is a strategy that was successfully utilized in Vancouver and led to the completion of their Sea Wall. Vancouver relied on temporary asphalt and chain link fences to provide public access and promote their trail, building stewardship and recreational opportunities for residents. This last effort will allow San Francisco to be the first county in the Bay Area to complete their Bay Trail alignment and will build momentum for the creation of a world-class waterfront greenway network, laid out in a long-term action plan and funding strategy that will be created by the Task Force.

To receive future information about the progress of this initiative or to learn about upcoming events and ways to participate in the process, contact Jeff Condit at jcondit@sfneighborhoodparks.org.

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CRAMPS AND ENDOMETRIOSIS

By Dr. Amy Day

When Julie was a young teenager, she couldn't wait to grow up. Like many girls, she viewed her first period as a thrilling right of passage. However, when it arrived, she finally understood what het older sister meant when she complained of "killer"

Month after month, the pain worsened, sometimes causing her to miss school. Her mother took her to several different doctors, each one running a few tests and telling her that everything was fine. She was left to believe that this kind of pain was normal and that she should learn to live with it. Many of her friends just thought she was exaggerating.

However, her instinct told her that something just wasn't right. It wasn't



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until she was 25, sick and tired of the pain, and researching her symptoms on the web, that Julie first came across the term endometriosis. For the first time in ten years, she finally had a word to describe what has been wrong with her all along.

Endometriosis (endo) is named after the endometrium, or innet lining of the uterus. This is the tissue that thickens in preparation for a pregnancy each month, and then sheds if there is no pregnancy. In endo, pieces of this kind of tissue are found in the pelvic cavity, outside of the uterus.

These "implants" can adhere to organs in the lower abdomen. They respond to hormones, thicken each month, and bleed, leading to pain, inflammation and scarring. Interestingly, the latest research proves that endo is more than just the existence of these implants. The disease also involves alterations in the immune and hormonal systems and can be associated with exposure to environmental toxins.

Affecting more than 7 million women in the U.S., it takes an average of eight years to get diagnosed. It is the leading cause of chronic pelvic pain, female infertility, and gynecological surgery. It accounts for one-third of female infertility and about half of the hysterectomies performed in this country.

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This is a serious and common disease, yet, like Julie, most women go through multiple visits with many different doctors before being diagnosed. This is because many doctors have not received adequate training on recognizing the signs of endo. Also, the general public is largely unaware of the disease.

One of the difficulties in diagnosing endo is that different women with the disease can have drastically different symptoms. For Julie, it was originally the cramps that led her to reading about endometriosis. However, as she learned more, she realized that her allergies and migraines were probably related, too.

Some of the most common symptoms are severe menstrual cramps, heavy bleeding, pelvic pain, low back pain and infertility. However, a woman with endo may have one of these symptoms, or none at all. Other possible symptoms include fatigue, migraines, candida (yeast) infections. IBS (irritable bowel syndrome), allergies, weak immune system and sensitivities to foods or chemicals.

After Julie came across the information about endometriosis, she took it to her doctor and requested testing. In women with the above symptoms, a pelvic exam and an ultrasound may show evidence of endometriosis. However, not all cases of endo can be detected this way. Julie's doctor told her that everything looked normal and discussed with her the

need to have surgery in order to be certain of the diagnosis.

Through her research, she found a surgeon who specialized in endometriosis. After a minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery (through a tiny incision in her abdomen), they removed the implants and confirmed that she did, in fat, have the disease.

However, Julie learned that even the best surgery is not a complete cure. Women need to maintain their health and address the underlying imbalances. This will help prevent the growths from returning and will help with the other related symptoms. As Julie educated herself about her options, she realized that there are numetous medical and hormonal treatments. She was also existed to learn that there are many natural treatments that are effective without causing as many side effects.

Whether a woman chooses to have surgery or not, she can improve her health through diet, lifestyle, stress management, herbs, supplements, massage, acupuncture, physical therapy, etc. Many women can learn to control their symptoms by taking a proactive role in their health care. The most successful patients educate themselves about their options and work with an expert to identify the most appropriate treatments for their individual case. A naturopathic doctor can help patients navigate both conventional and alternative approaches.

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Dr. Amy Day at the SOMA Acu-puncture & Natural Health Clinic is an expert in endometriosis and strives to improve integrative care for this condition. She offers free 15-minute phone consultations for asking questions about her naturopathic approach. For more information, call 415-643-6600 or visit www.SOMAacupuncture.com.



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City's Power Project Moves Toward Approval

PG&E to Close Hunters Point **Power Plant This Spring**

By Jim Marks

On March 15, PG&E announced that it will close the Hunters Point Power Plant this Spring. In 1998 PG&E signed an agreement with the City and County of San Francisco to close their Hunters Point facility. Under the Acrion Plan. agreed to in 2004 by PG&E, the city and the California Independent System Operator (Cal ISO), which controls electric power transmission and distribution in the State, ten days after PG&E informs Cal ISO that Jefferson Martin and other needed transmission lines are operational, Cal ISO will terminate PG&E's "Reliability-Must-Run" contract and the Hunters Point Power Plant will shut down. The completion and commercial operation of the city's two peaker plant projects will accomplish the final step of the Action Plan and permit the closure of Mirant's Potrero Power Plant.

The staff of the California Energy Commission (CEC) issued their Final Staff Assessment of the city's proposed Peaker Plant Project on February 17th. CEC staff held a workshop at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on March 6th to hear comments from the city and the

public on their findings. CEC staff will consider the comments received in preparing a report for the CEC Commissioners hearing this case. You can follow along as documents are prepared and presented by the CEC, its staff, the City, and intervenors in this process. Just go to http:// www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ sanfrancisco/index.html.

The city's Peaker Plant Project has continued to move forward. In February, the SF Public Utilities Commission, acting for the City of San Francisco, issued a request for bids from contractors to construct the city's two peaker plant projects, the one with three combustion turbine generators at 25th and Maryland Streets and the other single CT at the San Francisco International Airport. There was a bidders conference on February 28th to explain in more detail the proposed projects and the contracting process, and to answer potential bidders' questions. SFPUC staff conducted a tour of the proposed sites for these projects that afternoon. Project bids will be received by the city in late April.

Jim Marks is on the staff of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



GETTING BUGGY WITH IT

by Joy Owen

It's new, it's hip and it's alive: Bugs in rhe classroom. The six-legged craze is in fact harmless exotic insects that aid in educating students. Established by the Center for Ecosystem Survival (CES), a San Francisco non-profit, the Insect Discovery Lab acts as a portal for students, teachers, and the public to interact with arthropods as well as to participate in environmental stewardship.

This trend is so popular in the Greater Bay Area that last year alone the awe-inspiring insects visit 20,000 students!

Teachers are opening their doors to these trend-setting bugs (which include, but are not limited to, the giant African millipede, the whiptail scorpion, the giant thorny walking stick, and the Madagascar hissing cockroach) and loving every minute of it. Field trips can be expensive and not always practical; therefore, bringing bugs into the classroom has been a cost-effective alternative to teaching science based, natural history and conversation curriculums.

"The creative, hands-on program put

on by the Insect Discovery Lab is a wonderful experience for any student to enjoy and helps foster a sense of curiosity and excirement about the insect world," said Maria Woodworth, a fourth grade teacher at Alvarado Elementary School.

"The Insect Discovery Lab (located on Potrero Hill), was developed to increase students' knowledge of arthropods and most substantially to raise awareness for conservation," said Norman Gershenz, Director of CES. To find new and innovative ways to teach can be a challenge and these live insects capture the students' attention and instill a sense of wonder within them. Students touch and hold these magnificent creatures and become immersed in their beauty, uniqueness and diversity.

CES is dedicated to creating global partnerships to inspire broad-based participation in the preservation of biological diversity through ecosystem protection worldwide. The school is open at 699 Mississippi St. Call 415-648-3390 for information.

Joy Owen works at the Center for Ecosystem Survival on Potrero Hill.



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Smart Traffic – No Longer an Oxymoron

By Robynne Boyd Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

Times flies when you're having fun, but when trapped in traffic minutes pass like hours. Perhaps it's the uncertainty that makes time slow to a snails pace when highway congestion makes walking faster than driving. But over the last year, almost 100 digital signs have popped-up around the Bay Area that predict how long, or preferably short, it will take to reach a given destination. These include 20 electronic billboards in San Francisco, such as a prominent one located on the 101 between the Cesar Chavez and Vermont Street exits, which forecasts the time it'll take you to reach Oakland, SFO, or Palo Alto.

The "Changeable Message Signs" are a collaboration between the Merropolitan Transportation Commission, California Department of Transportation and two University of California, Berkeley research centers. They display Amber Alerts, accident information and, between 5 a.m. to

9 p.m., estimated travel times.

"The original intent of the signs was to alert motorists of problems on the road - if a car stalled in lane one on westbound 80, then motorists would know to move over and that their trip would take longer than planned," said Jeff Weiss, a Caltrans Public Information Manager. "The second step, adding travel times, just helps people make good travel decisions."

Besides helping people determine when they'll reach their destination, the signs alleviate surprises from roadway closures, improve public relations, and as part of a larger program of using changeable messages, help reduce congestion, which in turn improves air quality, according to Weiss. For example, if a sign indicates a trip to Oakland that usually takes 20 minutes will take 40, it may prompt drivers to consider taking an alternative route, pulling over and enjoying a cup of coffee, or even returning home instead of inching through gridlock.

> "Travel time is recalculated every minute, and an update to the sign is made whenever the time changes by two minutes."

Caltrans makes the predictions by timing cars as they travel between two points using sensors embedded below the highways surface that track vehicle flow, as well as from roadside "transponders" that monitor vehicles equipped with FasTrak.

U.C. Berkeley's contribution was creating the software that sends the information to the signs. "Travel time is recalculated every minute, and an update to the sign is made whenever the time changes by two minutes," said Alan Chow, who supervises the project for Caltrans.

Some meticulous motorists have taken it upon themselves to test the accuracy of the predictions. "When I travel to Palo Alto from the city I've noticed that most often the two signs I pass say that Palo Alto is I6 minutes away, then eight," said Donald McCasland, a software engineer and San Francisco to Palo Alto commuter. "When it has changed, I've been interested enough to time it, and they were spot on."

I, too, tested the signs' precision. My test drive started at the electronic sign located on Highway 101 just before the Vermont Street exit. It told me that it'd take me 19 minutes to reach Oakland. The trip actually took 20 minutes, but what's a minute, give or take?

U.C. Berkeley recently conducted a survey of people's reactions to the travel time signs. "We had very positive responses," said J.D. Margulici, a Senior Development Engineer at the California Center for Innovative Transportation, a university research center. Eighty percent of survey respondents felt that the posted destinations were suitable, and almost everyone praised the signs' accuracy.

Margulici noted that the survey didn't question commuters about alternative routes. "In reality most itineraries in the Bay Area don't have that many options" said Margulici, "perhaps alternative routes are not realistic due to California's infrastructure." He did contemplate the possibility of adding alternative route suggestions in the future.

According to Weiss, the only complaint Caltrans has received about the signs was about their expense. But he explained adding the travel times to the existing alert signs "barely cost anything" – just \$50,000 – since the rest of the technology was already in place.

For some travelers these funds have been well spent. As one survey respondent stated, "Estimated time, no matter how long, reduces travel anxiety." In an era where time is far more capricious than money, travel time signs may be one dependable prediction in an increasingly unpredictable world.

The Nabe Gets a Face Lift

As part of Rebuilding Together San Francisco (formally Christmas In April) efforts to revitalize San Francisco's valued non-profit and neighborhood facilities, The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 953De Haro Street has been chosen for overall improvements.

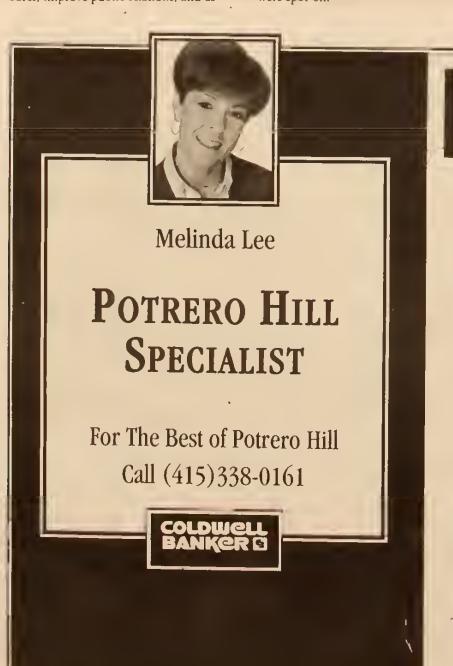
The Neighborhood House is a multi-purpose, multi generational community center in continuous operation for 99 years. It is a significant building recognized by San Francisco's Historic Landmarks (#86). Designed by Julia Morgan in 1922 as a neighborhood center and recognized for its continued service to the community.

Bay Area Young Architects (BAYA) an AIA San Francisco Committee, is working with Rebuilding Together to implement the improvements. The majority of the improvements will be completed in one day on Saturday, April 29, 2006 by volunteers from San Francisco/

Bay Area.

BAYA is honored and excited to be a part of this project. As a part of our efforts BAYA is fundraising for the project. If you wish to make a contribution or volunteer please visit the Rebuilding Together San Francisco Link at www.rebuildingtogethersf.org. To get a sense of the project and scope of work please visit the following link. www.bayaforrtsf.blogspot.com

For additional information on the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House please call 415-826-8080 or visit our website@www.nabe.potrerohillsf.com



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Parks Receive a "B"

(Continued from Page 1)

"Rec and Park was not willing or able to go out and survey the playgrounds," says Isabel Wade, the Neighborhood Parks Council's executive director. "Many cities survey their parks once a month. [San Francisco] hasn't done it in six years."

Rose Dennis, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's (RPD) director of communications and public relations says it's unclear what impact, if any, the volunteer-driven report card will have.

Still, the determined volunteers, who headed-out to grade the parks after receiving-a brief training, were on the lookout for broken equipment, rusted or corroded play structures, and splinters or other hazardous materials. The survey also directed volunteers to watch for surfacing issues, like the depth and cleanliness of sand and cracks in hard surfaces.

And, as arsenic in wooden play structures continues to draw the attention of concerned parents, many volunteers were especially on the alert for proper paint jobs on wooden equipment installed before 1991. Most lumber that's sold for outdoor use in the U.S. is pressure treated and injected with toxins that prevent decay and bug infestations. The most common preservative, chromated copper arsenate (CCA), is 22 percent pure arsenic.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission acknowledges that CCA poses elevated cancer risks, as children can easily ingest arsenic after prolonged contact with the treated wood. Proper paint jobs of outdoor equipment seals-in the poison, and greatly reduces health risks.

RPD is responsible for sealing wooden structures by thoroughly and tegularly painting them. But the survey revealed that only 42 percent of San Francisco's wooden play structures are properly painted.

No San Francisco district received an "A" average. Districts 8, 9 and 10 brought home the best report cards, each with "B's." Districts 1 through 7 averaged "C's" and Supervisor Sandoval's District 11 posted the City's only "D" average.

Citywide more than half of all play-

Though the survey instrument was adapted from the National Program for Playground Safety, volunteers were not conducting a safety survey. According to Condit the survey was modified and "refocused on maintenance issues," which Condit says RPD was "more comfortable with"

"I think the idea for a survey like this is great," says Amanda Morales, a Mission District resident and parent. "But I wish someone would look into safety issues as well as upkeep."

Morales has a point. It's been more

even basic national safety standards. I think if they [the Parks Council] had gone ahead and done a safety survey a lot of our parks would have to close."

"There have been a lot of changes in safety regulations in recent years and I'd say a majority of our playgrounds are not up to code," Wade says. "Hopefully we can use the [survey results] to get Rec and Park to pay attention to maintenance issues and in places where things are really dire, it will be a wakeup call for our civic body. Maybe they will prioritize a new way to find money for parks programs."

As the City tries to decide what to do with the more than \$100 million in supplemental funding that's now available thanks to budget cuts and increased tax revenues, Wade hopes that San Francisco's parks and playgrounds will get a healthy piece of the pie.

Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin agrees. He proposes that \$35 million of the surplus be spent on Recreation and Parks Capital Projects. Peskin's plan would complete all of the Phase 1 projects, such as those pending at the Lincoln and Potrero Hill playgrounds, which were supposed to be finished through the capital bond project of 2000.

"A number of projects were chopped off the go-ahead list when Rec and Park realized they were running out of money." Wade says, referring to the \$110 million bond passed by San Francisco voters in 2000. "This money could finally allow the Department to finish all of those projects."

Should Peskin's plan be approved, Potrero Hill's failing playground would receive nearly \$1.4 million.

But regardless of what happens with the surplus, it's clear that the city needs to examine the state of its playgrounds. With more families with children under the age of six [leaving San Francisco every year, Wade believes maintaining playgrounds could be the first step in reversing that

No San Francisco district received an "A" average. Districts 8, 9 and 10 brought home the best report cards, each with "B's." Districts 1 through 7 averaged "C's" and Supervisor Sandoval's District 11 posted the City's only "D" average.

ground equipment was rusted, rotted or corroded, and nearly half of all swings were considered unsafe due to open shooks

"The s-hooks were an area of concern that came up a lot," says Jeff Condit, Playground and Capital Projects Coordinator for the Neighborhood Parks Council.
"They need to be closed at least to the width of a dime. They tend to open up over time so there can be entanglement issues with kids' clothing. Rec and Park just has to go out with some pliers to fix them," he says.

than six years since the city has surveyed its parks and playgrounds for compliance with national safety standards.

According to an RPD staff member, who asked not to be named, the reason behind RPD's insistence on a maintenance rather than safety survey reveals a much deeper problem with San Francisco's playgrounds. The staffer says there was "fierce discussion over the [Love Your Playground] survey." Had the Neighborhood Parks Council certified volunteers to be safety inspectors "we would see a good percentage of the City's parks not meeting



If you are considering a home purchase or thinking about selling your home, call Mary Lace, Potrero Hill Specialist, to discuss your real estate needs.

Visit Mary's website at <u>www.marylace.com</u> for more real estate information.



SENIOR ACTION NETWORK PRE-SENTS a program on understanding Medicare Part D, on Friday, April 7, immediately following the 11 a.m. Mass. A spokesperson from the organization will give valuable information on the Drug Discount Program, better known as Medicare Part "D. She will also touch on common misconceptions about Medicare coverage. A light lunch will be provided, so space is limited. Call Marie Caracciolo, 415-647-9357, or the Parish Office, 415-285-5272 if interested in attending.

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CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MU-SEUM. Presents an exhibition of contemporary photography and video from the Israel Museum, at the Jewish museum located at 121 Steuart St. (between Mission and Howard Streets), in San Francisco. Sunday to Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. Passover hours are: Open 12 to 4 p.m. on April 12, and closed for the Passover holiday on April 13, 19 and 20. This exhibit was created exclusively for the San Francisco museum by Israeli artists, and produced in the past five years. Admission is \$5, adults, and \$4 for students and seniors. Call 415-344-8800 for more information.

SILENT AUCTION FOR BUENA VISTA. The Buena Vista School is hosting its annual fund raiser at the Cell Space, 2050 Bryant St. on Saturday, April 29. It's a "silent auction" which takes place from 6 to 12 p.m. There'll be drinks and music to dance by at a cost of \$20 (\$15 in advance) which includes dinner. Proceeds support the local public elementary school, Buena Vista. For more information contact the school at 415-695-5875.

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Doug Dowd's Course on Economics, Tuesday, April 11 & Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m. The author's popular course on economics will meet twice a month from April through September. A San Francisco native, Dowd is a radical economist, economic historian, currently a professor at two universities in Italy, the author of more than a dozen books, and lifelong political activist. Dowd calls himself a loose-jointed Marxist and a full-fledged Veblenian – he's the Peoples' Economist. His latest book is The Broken Promises of America.

Michael Whitty Labor's Stake in Ending the Drug War: Two Causes with a Common Enemy, Sunday, April 23, 4 p.m. According to Professor Whitty, "Ending the drug war and drug testing of workers requires outreach to unions, minorities and other progressive groups. We have a common enemy, we need a common response. Our common ground is opposition to the prison-industrial complex and a rising police state, begun in part with the drug war" Participate in this networking event designed to brainstorm more effective ways of collaboration and coalition building between different issues and causes. Introduced by Steve Zeltzer, featuring a sneak peek at this summer's popular LaborFest lineup.



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IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE. The Society of California Pioneers Museum commemorates the centennial of the great earthquake and fire with Shake, Bake & Spin! In the Aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. The exhibition opens on April 12 with a free public open house from 4 and 7 p.m. and runs through December 8. For information contact John Hogan, 415-957-1849

CITY COILEGE PRESENTS SPECIAL EVENTS ON 1906 EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE. "100 Years of "Shake, Rattle and Roll" in a lecture and slide presentation by Charles Fracchia, founder of the S.F. Historical Society since 1988. This event takes place on Tuesday, April 18, 2 to 3 p.m. in the Rosenberg Library, Room 305, at City College. Call the College, 415-239-3580 for more information and directions.

ABOUT VISITACION VALLEY. A rare piece of San Francisco History — Visitacion Valley! For thousands of years, Native Americans who hunted in the hills and fished in the nearby bay inhabited today's most southeasterly neighborhood nestled between Bayview Hill, McLaren Park and San Bruno Mountain range. Hear how this valley became the "Valley of the Good Neighbor" since its founding until today. The S.F. History Assn. meeting will be Tuesday, April 25 in the Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church Streets. Ample lighted parking is provided adjacent to the school.

S.F. HISTORY ASSOCIATION TALKS



Doors open at 7 p.m. with refreshments,

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Shake, Bake & Spin! Media in the Aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire



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For a free evaluation of your home, please call: 415,901,2783 Greg Angilly & Garrett Goldman are licensed agents with Urban Bay Properties Lotta's Fountain, where Kearny and Geary Streets meet Market, marks the location for ceremonies observing the anniversary of the 1906 earthquake and subsequent fire.

Photo courtesy of the Society of California Pioneers.

The Society of California Pioneers Museum Presents Multimedia Exhibition

SAN FRANCISCO — The Society of California Pioneers Museum commemorates the centennial of the great earthquake and fire with Shake. Bake & Spin! Media in the Aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. The exhibition opens on April 12 with a free public open house from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and runs rhrough December 8, 2006.

As the city crumbled and San Franciscans scrambled to meet their most basic needs, political ambition, commercial greed and media manipularion rose to unprecedented heights. Mayor Eugene Schmitz and James D. Phelan worked with bankers, insurance companies, real-estate developers and the local press to downplay the severity of the catastrophe, protect property. sustain morale, and focus attention on the rebuilding of the city.

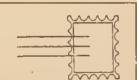
Shake, Bake & Spin! uses historic documents, retrieved relics, photographs, newspapers, and film to examine the repackaging and reselling of the events of April 18, 1906. The press suppressed reports of actual death tolls and raging epidemics but zealously defended property rights. Developers conspired to remove Chinatown residents in a land grab disguised as urban renewal. Local hotels printed flyers for tourists offering motor tours of the city's most devastated areas.

The exhibition also features rare film footage of building implosions and the extent of the damage in the days after the quake and fire as well as simulated re-creation of the disaster produced for mass consumption in a New York film studio.

Running concurrently, the museum's lecture series will feature local writers Carl Nolte and David Burkhart.

(Continues on page 14)

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PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR

The Federal Troops, the members of the Regular Police Force and all Special Police Officers have been authorized by me to KILL any and all persons found engaged in Looting or in the Commission of Any Other Crime.

I have directed all the Gas and Electric Lighting Co.'s not to turn on Gas or Electricity until I order them to do so. You may therefore expect the city to remain in darkness for an indefinite time.

I request all citizens to remain at home from darkness until daylight every night until order is restored.

I WARN all Citizens of the danger of fire from Damaged or Destroyed Chimneys, Broken or Leaking Gas Pipes or Fixtures, or any like cause.

E. E. SCHMITZ, Mayor

Dated, April 18, 1906,

ALTVATER PRINT, MISSION AND 826 ST

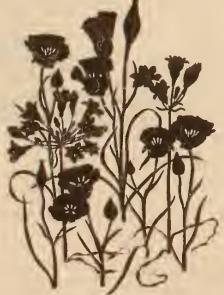
Above is a reproduction of the "Shoot To Kill" proclamation given by Mayor Schmitz on April 18, 1906.

Image courtesy of the Society of California Pioneers.

The Potrero Branch of the San Francisco Public Library presents

51st Annual

Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition



Exhibition
April 1–29, 2006
Potrero Branch Library

Opening Reception
Saturday, April 1, 2006
7:00–9:00 p.m.
With live musical entertainment by the Apollo Jazz Group

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All programs at the Library are free Funded by the generous donations of Potrero Hill merchants, associations, and individuals, and Friends of the San Francisco Public Library



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1616-20th Street (near Connecticut) (415) 355-2822 www.sfpl.org Hours Toe to 8. Wed t2-8, Thur 10-6, Fri t-6, Sat t-6, Sun, Mon closed atra Tes

Shake, Bake & Spin

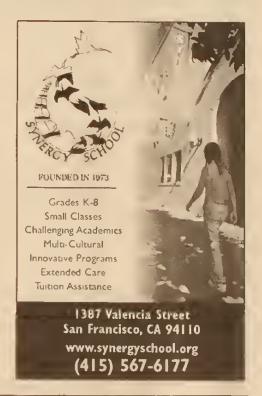
(Continued from page 14)

Burkhart, author of "Earthquake Days: The San Francisco Earthquake and Fire in 3D" will speak on April 26. Nolte, author of "The San Francisco Century: A City Rises from the Ruins of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire" will speak on May 24. Museum lectures begin at 6:00 PM.

The Society of California Pioneers Museum is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Wednesday to Friday and the first Saturday of every month. Exhibition admission is \$3.00; \$1.00 for students and seniors. Free guided tours with educational programming for groups of elementary, middle and high school students or seniors are available Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Established in 1850, The Society of California Pioneers is a leading repository of paintings, photographs, books, manuscripts, decorative arts and artifacts that evoke California's early years of exploration and Statehood with both galleries and a research library that are open to the public. The Society is located at 300 Fourth Street at the corner of Folsom Street in the Yerba Buena

museum district of San Francisco. For further information or to make a group reservation, contact The Society of California Pioneers at (415) 957-1849 or at info@californiapioneers.org.



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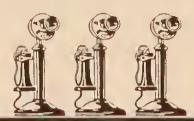
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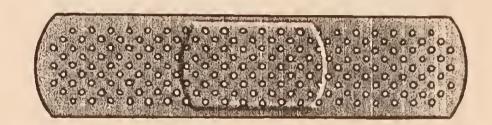
(Continued from Page 1)

two-month average wait for a new patient appointment. Patients waiting for dental care face up to a nine-month wait, because the Health Center is one of only three clinics that provide free dental care.

Another critical element of the Health Center's work is exposing medical

students to publicly-funded care. A family practice resident works at the Center for a two-year span, and several University of California at San Francisco students on six-week work-study assignments are usually on hand. "Many of our clinics are staffed by graduates of our programs, so it does pay off to spend some of our time teaching." says Drennan.

"I became emotionally attached to this clinic," says Magnusson, who began working there after a residency at San Francisco General Hospital. Several years ago she moved to an East Bay clinic for a few weeks but came back to the Health Center because she felt that she had better resources available for helping her patients. "Very few counties have this level of care for everyone," she says. "As long as it's open I'll be there."



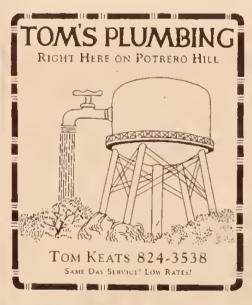
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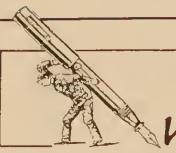
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We Get Letters

Editor

Potrero Hill residents interested in meeting neighbors while working on a fun and creative project are invited to join the Potrero Hill Community Arts Group (PHCAG) on Monday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House(Nabe) for exchange of ideas on a new community art project.

Building off the success of the PHCAG's project last year – Community Arts Sculpture – which engaged hundreds of community members and raised funds for the Nabe, we are enthused to start working on another project. However, we need your ideas and energy to make our next project a success! We want to identify a project that will build community, tap into our collective creativity, and create beauty within our neighborhood.

No art training or experience is necessary, only a willingness to be part of a creative venture in your community. For more information, email me at aliquaid@gmail.com or call 415-748-1315.

Allison Quaid Potrero Hill resident

Editor:

At the request of concerned neighbors of the former Patrick Henry Elementary School (known now as International Stud-

ies Academy), members of the San Francisco Unified School District have consented to meet with Potrero Hill residents on Monday, April 24, at the ISA School at 693 Vermont, between 18th and 19th streets. The meeting starts at 7 p.m..

Residents are worried over the plans for the different school at 693 Vermont Street: ISA will move to the former Potrero Hill Middle School (Enola D. Maxwell Middle School) located on De Haro Street. Downtown/Continuation school is expected to move into the former Patrick Henry Elementary School, currently the home of ISA.

Dr. Frank Tom, Assistant Superintendent in charge of high schools promises to be there to give an overview and answer questions we might have about the new education facility arrangements.

The principal and dean of Downtown High School are also expected to attend, and explain the activities and function of their school. Faculty members have also been invited to be present.

There are many negative rumors that are following the Downtown school's entry. We hope this meeting will dispel some of the questions.

The meeting is o pen to all concerned residents of Potrero Hill.

Babette Drefke Kansas Street

We welcome letters from our readers. Please send them to us at The Potrero View, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or e-mail them to editor@potreroview.net.

Letters must be signed and include a street address as well as a phone number.

Letters to the Editor are subject to editing for length and clarity.



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New Listings!



880 Wisconsin @ 22nd Street Price: \$749,000

This home on Potrero Hill was built in 1953. It has two bedrooms at the back, a large kitchen with a dining area, a living room with a woodburning fireplace, and a full bath. It has a large garage with parking for one to two cars, and lots of extra room for storage and a laundry area with washer & dryer. There is a one bedroom cottage at the back of the lot and a level garden with mature plants and a lemon tree. Home with "good bones" that needs some TLC.



Great North Slope location; this 1930's Spanish Mediterranean home has a lovely flowing floor plan with VIEWS from the back two bedrooms of the SF skyline, Bay and Bay Bridge! There is an additional room and bath down. Garage with parking for one to two cars and lots of extra storage. Lovely terraced yard has mature plants and trees. This home simply needs cosmetic upgrades to be stunning! Rare opportunity to own on the coveted North Slope of Potrero Hill!

587 Rhode Island @ 18th Street Price: \$925,000



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Potrero's Small Businesses Offer a Piece of History

By Gretchen Helsel Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

Flo's Hair Styling, located on 20th Street, is small on space, but big on history. Plaques adorning one wall list achievements in hair structure and chemistry dating back to 1971. The Wildroot Cream-Oil sitting by the sink is 45 years old.

Cimino, 73, has owned his place for 53 years. He became a barber when he was 17 years old and opened Flo's at 20. For the three years in between, Cimino worked at a barber shop on 24th and Alabama Streets. There he gained loyal customers who followed him when he opened his own storefront. "You give a guy a good haircut, he'll come back," said Cimino about his success.

Like many small businesses on the Hill, when Flo's first opened, he was "working for practically nothing," he said. "But, that's the way it was in those days. Nowadays guys want to start at the top."

Cimino lives in the same Alabama Street house he was born in and still sees friends he made in kindergarten. "I raised four kids out of this place," said Cimino, proudly pointing out pictures of his sons.

Kayren Hudiburgh, is another longtime business owner and Potrero Hill resident. Along with Lester Zeidman, she owns The Good Life Grocery on 20th Street. The store, which opened in 1974, began when many City neighborhoods had food-buying clubs. Four to five neighbors would purchase bulk goods at produce markets and distribute them to fellow residents.

"Thar wound up being a lot of work. We all thought if we could get all this stuff in one place it would be a whole lot easier," said Hudiburgh in her office, a chilly loft above the 1,200 square-foot store.

"This is an old-fashioned way to do business, unique in today's fast-paced world," said Hudiburgh. "There is a consciousness to support independence and local business, which is unique to San Francisco ... a part of our independent

Keith Guntner, 59, of Center Hardware at 999 Mariposa has "been in hardware since I could walk." Growing up, his family owned a hardware store in Ocean View. Since 1980, Guntner has been a majority partner at Center. The large space, 15,000 square feet, and convenience to the freeway attracted Guntner to what was then an old steel watehouse at the foot of the 280southbound freeway on-ramp.

Guntner's son Blake, 29, works alongside him on the floor of the store, while his daughter, Jamie Gubman, 32, staffs the upstairs office. Guntner seems to already be making plans for his 19month-old grandson.

Challenges are emerging for the Hill's owner-operated small businesses. A Whole Foods under construction at 17th and Rhode Island streets could eat some of Good Life's lunch. Ever the community-supporter, Hudiburgh noted that she was "glad it is a Whole Foods and not a Wal Mart. It is a beautiful store with good food." But that doesn't mean she'll take the new competition lying down. To combat Whole Foods, Good Life will upgrade its facility. "I'll do whatever it

takes for me to stay competitive, but it has to make sense financially for me to stay open," said Hudiburgh. She emphasized her commitment to her employees, who receive comprehensive health benefits. "As long as people keep walking their dogs and their kids by, I"ll be here," said Hudiburgh.

Guntner is confident his family business will stay busy once a 148,500 square-foot Home Depot moves in just on the other side of 280 on Bayshore Boulevard. Because his store caters to a more commercial crowd, contractors instead of weekend do-it-yourselfers, time is an issue. "What you can get here in three to five minutes would take you over ten minutes at Home Depot," said Guntner. "It's a smaller store and I have people who can actually help you. There is always someone up front to ring you up."

Cimino is happy about new businesses in the area, but hopes Potrero Hill does not lose its "glamour." "The whole Hill has changed," said Cimino, waiting for his 2:30 appointment to arrive. "With UCSF, all the condos and new homes, this place is up and coming."

> "This is an old-fashioned · way to do business, unique in today's fast-paced world."

Hudiburgh believes that local businesses can help the Hill retain its character. "There needs to be outreach on behalf of the merchants; this has always been an activist community," she said.

A common fear on the Hill is the introduction of large, impersonal businesses, especially on 18th Street. "We can't say no, but we are certainly not trying to encourage big-box development in Potrero Hill," said City Planner Jasper Rubin. He added that Board of Supervisors resolutions, though nonbinding, call for restrictions on "formula

Cimino, who's looked out on the same block of 20th Street for over half a century has found security. "Money protects; people pay for the views, they are not going to build and block those. Plus, the merchant's and neighborhood associations won't let em.'

Keith Goldstein, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses president, echoed Cimino's sentiment of fighting big box development. "Right now we are gearing up for a major effort," said Goldstein. His association has teamed up with the Potrero Boosters and the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association for a "louder voice.

"This is a critical time," said Goldstein, adding that the San Francisco Planning Department will soon make zoning recommendations for the area. Goldstein's main concern is a change of designation on 18th and 20th streets from Neighborhood Commercial (NC)1 and NC2 to NC3. "We do not want to get NC3; that allows for business space up to 50,000 square feet," said Goldstein, who has lived on the Hill for 34 years. "We want to be able to keep those neighborhood-serving businesses."



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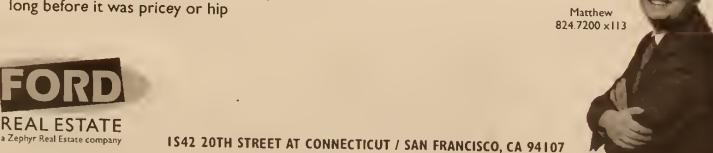
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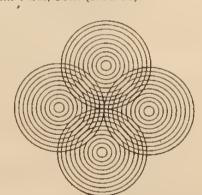
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Happy Birthday.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY; April Fools Day (4/1), John J. Audubon (1785), Randy Armstrong, Pearl Berkelman, Brenda Berlin, Jacob Berman, Charles Bryan, Buddha (c.563 B.C.), Rupert Burns, Herb Caen, California Street Cable Car line (1878), Angelina Charbonneau, Sue Cleaver, Nancy Clifford, Congress grants citizenship to all born in U.S. except Native Indians (1866), Curt Chelin, Civil Rights Bill of 1866 (4/9), Civil Rights Act of 1968 (4/11), Charles Chaplin (1889), John Durden, Clarence Darrow (1857), Annabelle Dirks, Daylight Savings Time (4/2 — spring forward), Earth Day (4/22), Easter (4/16), Duke Ellington (1899), Ella Fitzgerald (1918), Bernice Fleming, Lonnie Ford, Ruth Goldhammer, Gail Goldman, Sara Golec, Peter & Alice Gowland, Quinci Green, Grilled Cheese Sandwich month, Kate Hilsenback, Billie Holiday (1915), Judy Hughes, Sam & Don Henry, David Irons, Madeline & John Jaundzems, Abby Johnston, Kyle Katz, Brian Kelly, Coretta Scott King (1927), Paul Krassner, Ruth Maguire, Guglielmo Marconi (1874), Sophie Maxwell, Brian, Tim & Tom McWilliams, Salvatore Meblin, Nabonassar Era (2755) No Housework Day (4/7), Passover (4/13), Tito Patri, Christina Payloff, Paul Pelosi, Queen Elizabeth II, Edel Raith, Doris Roberson, Cynthia Robinson, Cheryl Ruff, Paul Robeson (1898), S.F. Earthquake (5:12 a.m.) & Fire (1906), Safety Pin (1849), William Shakespeare (1564), Sally Taylor. Bert Waxler, Medardy Westrum, Muddy Waters (1915), Audrey Wood, Zipper patented (1913), Zimbabwe Independence (1980), and WELCOME to Ariya Rose Finis-Perez, born (2/18/06).





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